



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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C Cookson

Email: request-699596-9517c652@whatdotheyknow.com

Ref. FOI 2020/11585

Dear C Cookson,

12 November 2020

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2020 requesting the following information:

“In a meeting with councillors on 15th October, councillors made it clear that they had been informed by the MOD/DIO of a health and safety report which was critical of aspects of Ash Ranges and led to the hastened closure.

Please provide any or all reports relating to Health and Safety which pertain to Ash Ranges, included indirectly such as national or regional reports that have been produced by the MOD or any of its agents or produced by other organisations and have been disclosed to the MOD or its agents.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found at Annexes A-C but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been redacted.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know that Annex A has now replaced Annex B (which is now outdated) as the most recent Ash Ranges Small Arms Risk Assessment. However, in the interests of transparency, Annex B has also been provided to you.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-

IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat